

The Claims

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1. (Original) A networked client/server system, comprising:
- a network annotation server;
 - a network media server;
 - a client that communicates with both the annotation server and the media server over a data communications network;
 - multimedia content available from the media server;
 - a plurality of annotations, corresponding to the multimedia content, available from the annotation server, each of the plurality of annotations including annotation content and a temporal range identifier that identifies a segment of the multimedia content to which the annotation corresponds; and
 - wherein the client supports a graphical user interface that presents a plurality of annotation identifiers corresponding to the multimedia content and that enables a user to request selected ones of the plurality of annotations, based on the plurality of annotation identifiers, and to render the requested annotations.
2. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface further includes a plurality of user-configurable buttons, whereupon selection of one of the plurality of user-configurable buttons a user-defined action corresponding to the selected button is taken.

⁴~~3~~. (Original) A graphical user interface for adding annotations to an annotation database from a network client, the graphical user interface comprising:

an annotation content field via which a user can enter content for a new annotation to the network client; and

C1 an annotation type selector presenting a plurality of annotation media types, whereupon selection of one of the plurality of annotation types causes the network client to change presentation of the annotation content field based on the selected annotation type.

⁵~~4~~. (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ⁴~~3~~, wherein the plurality of annotation types include a text option, an audio option, and a uniform resource locator (URL) option.

⁶~~5~~. (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ⁴~~3~~, wherein the annotation content field comprises a uniform resource locator (URL) field when an URL type is selected.

⁷~~6~~. (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ⁴~~3~~, wherein the annotation content field comprises a text entry field when a text type is selected.

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8 (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 4, wherein the annotation content field comprises, when an audio type is selected, a plurality of audio controls including one or more of: record, stop, pause, play, fast forward, and rewind.

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9 (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 4, wherein the plurality of annotation type selector comprises a radio button for each of the plurality of annotation types.

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9 (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 4, further comprising an email field to identify a recipient to receive an email notification of the new annotation.

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10 (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 4, further comprising an add button, whereupon selection of the add button causes the network client to forward the content from the annotation content field to an annotation server to be added to an annotation database.

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11 (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 4, further comprising temporal range information identifying a segment of media content to which the annotation corresponds.

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~~12~~ (Previously presented) A graphical user interface at a network client to search for annotations corresponding to media content in an annotation database, the graphical user interface comprising:

an annotation set selector via which a user can identify one or more of a plurality of annotation sets to be searched;

a search criteria portion via which a user can identify search criteria; and

01 a query button, wherein actuation of the query button causes the network client to forward identifiers of the identified one or more annotation sets and the identified search criteria to an annotation server to search the annotation database.

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~~15~~ (Previously presented) A graphical user interface at a network client to search for annotations corresponding to media content in an annotation database, the graphical user interface comprising:

an annotation set selector via which a user can identify one or more of a plurality of annotation sets to be searched;

a search criteria portion via which a user can identify search criteria;

a target check box, whereupon selection of the target check box causes the network client to add, as an additional search criteria, a media content identifier; and

a query button, wherein actuation of the query button causes the network client to forward the identified one or more annotation sets and the identified search criteria to an annotation server to search the annotation database.

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~~14~~ (Previously presented) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ¹⁴
~~12~~, wherein the search criteria portion includes an annotation creation date entry field.

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~~15~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ¹⁴
~~12~~, further comprising a detail level selector via which a user can indicate an amount of data to be displayed for each annotation that matches the search criteria.

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~~16~~ (Original) A graphical user interface for viewing, at a network client, annotations corresponding to media content, the graphical user interface comprising:

an annotation identifier list via which an identifier for each of a plurality of annotations corresponding to the media content is displayed, the identifier including an indication of a type of content included in the annotation;

an actuation mechanism to enable a user to select one of the annotation identifiers, wherein selection of one of the annotation identifiers causes the network client to highlight the annotation identifier.

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~~17~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ¹⁸
~~16~~, wherein the type of content includes one or more of: audio content, text content, video content, and uniform resource locator (URL) content.

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~~18~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ~~16~~¹⁸, wherein the identifier for an annotation includes one or more of: an indication of an author of the annotation, an indication of an annotation set that the annotation belongs to, an indication of a date the annotation was created, and a summary of the annotation.

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~~19~~ (Previously presented) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ~~16~~¹⁸, further comprising a mechanism to identify a particular identifier that corresponds to an annotation of the plurality of annotations with a temporal range having a beginning time closest to a current presentation time of the media content.

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~~20~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ~~19~~²¹, wherein the mechanism comprises an arrow.

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~~21~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ~~16~~¹⁸, further comprising a preview portion via which annotation content for a selected one of the plurality of annotations is displayed.

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22 (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 18, further comprising a menu including a plurality of options identifying criteria to be used to order the annotation identifiers in the annotation identifier portion, whereupon selection of one of the plurality of options by a user causes the network client to arrange the annotation identifiers in the annotation identifier list in accordance with the criteria of the selected option.

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23 (Previously presented) A graphical user interface presented by an interface module, the graphical user interface comprising:

an annotation content portion via which annotations corresponding to video content are presented to a user;

an annotation identifier portion that identifies a plurality of annotations corresponding to the video content, wherein the annotation identifier portion identifies each of the plurality of annotations by an annotation subject line; and

an input button, wherein user selection of the input button causes the interface module to create a new annotation.

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24 (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 25, wherein the annotation identifier portion further includes a visual identification of a current one or more annotations of the plurality of annotations that are temporally closest to a current playback position of the video content.

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~~25~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ²⁵~~23~~, further comprising a plurality of user-configurable buttons, whereupon selection of one of the plurality of user-configurable buttons a user-defined action corresponding to the selected button is taken.

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~~26~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ²⁵~~23~~, further comprising a media portion via which video content is displayed to a user.

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~~27~~ (Original) A graphical user interface as recited in claim ²⁵~~23~~, wherein the interface module creates the new annotation by forwarding content for the new annotation to an annotation server.

[²⁸
~~28~~ (Canceled).

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~~29~~ (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ³⁰~~28~~, wherein the data associated with the user interface comprises an annotation set identifier.

30. (Currently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 28, further~~ comprising:

presenting a user interface at a client computer, the user interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;

receiving a user request to add the new annotation;

forwarding information for the new annotation to an annotation server, the information including data associated with the user interface;

analyzing at least a portion of the media content to identify a likely temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and presenting the likely temporal location to the user via the user interface.

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~~31~~ (Currently amended) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 3028.

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~~32~~ (Original) A method comprising:
presenting a user interface at a client computer, the user interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;
receiving a user request to add the new annotation;
analyzing at least a portion of the media content to identify a likely temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and
presenting the likely temporal location to the user via the user interface.

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~~33~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³³~~32~~, wherein the likely temporal location comprises a likely beginning temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with.

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~~34~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³³~~32~~, further comprising:
receiving an acceptance or rejection of the likely temporal location from the user via the user interface;

using, in response to receiving an acceptance from the user, the likely temporal location as the temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and

analyzing, in response to receiving a rejection from the user, at least another portion of the media content to identify another likely temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with, and presenting the other likely temporal location to the user via the user interface.

01 ³⁶~~35~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³⁵~~34~~, wherein the portion of the media content and the other portion of the media content are two different portions of the media content.

³⁷~~36~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³³~~32~~, further comprising using the likely temporal location as the temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with.

³⁸~~37~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³³~~32~~, wherein the presenting comprises displaying a video frame of the media content corresponding to the likely temporal location.

³⁹~~38~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³³~~32~~, wherein the presenting comprises displaying a presentation time of the media content that corresponds to the likely temporal location.

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~~39~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³³~~32~~, wherein the analyzing comprises analyzing audio content.

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~~40~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ³³~~32~~, wherein the analyzing comprises analyzing video content.

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~~41~~ (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim ³³~~32~~

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~~42~~ (Original) A method comprising:

- presenting a graphical user interface at a client computer, the graphical user interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;
- receiving a user request to add the new annotation;
- presenting, to the user via the graphical user interface, a plurality of likely temporal locations of the media content to associate the new annotation with; and
- receiving a user selection of one of the plurality of likely temporal locations to be the temporal location of the media content to associate the new annotation with.

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~~43~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ⁴³~~42~~, wherein the presenting the plurality of likely temporal locations comprises identifying a different one of the plurality of likely temporal locations to the user each time the user actuates a rewind button of the user interface.

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~~44~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ⁴³~~42~~, wherein the presenting comprises, for each of the plurality of likely temporal locations, displaying a visual indication of the likely temporal location.

C1 ⁴⁶
~~45~~ (Original) A method as recited in claim ⁴⁵~~44~~, wherein the visual indication includes one or more of: a video frame of the media content, a numerical presentation time of the media content, and an indicator on a graphical time bar.

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~~46~~ (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim ⁴³~~42~~.

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~~47~~ (Original) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

presenting a graphical user interface at a client computer, the graphical user interface enabling a user to add a new annotation corresponding to media content;
receiving a user request to add the new annotation;

identifying a user request time that is a time, with reference to the presentation time of the media content, that the user request is received; and

selecting, based on the user request time, a presentation time of the media content to associate the new annotation with, wherein the presentation time is a different time than the user request time.

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~~48~~ (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim
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~~47~~ wherein the selecting comprises selecting a begin time and an end time of the media content to define a segment of the media content to associate the new annotation with, and wherein the begin time is prior to the user request time and the end time is subsequent to the user request time.

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~~49~~ (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each annotation identifier of the plurality of annotation identifiers comprises an annotation subject line of an annotation corresponding to the multimedia content.

50 (Canceled).

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~~51~~

(Currently amended)

One or more computer readable media having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

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present a plurality of annotation identifiers corresponding to multimedia content that enable a user to request selected ones of the plurality of annotations, based on the plurality of annotation identifiers, each of the plurality of annotations including annotation content and a temporal range identifier that identifies a segment of the multimedia content to which the annotation corresponds, and each of the plurality of annotations being available from an annotation server; and to render the requested annotations.

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~~52~~

(Previously presented)

A graphical user interface as recited in claim ~~5~~⁴, further comprising an input option that allows the user adding the new annotation to remain anonymous.